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Letter dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the situation in Somalia issued on 10 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement on the situation in Somalia issued on 10 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union notes with concern the recent outbreak of conflict in Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle, Puntland and other parts of Somalia and calls upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid further bloodshed and create a climate conducive to national reconciliation.

The European Union renews its appeal to the Transitional Government to pursue its efforts towards national reconciliation along the lines of the Union's declaration of 8 September 2000 with a genuine spirit of compromise, by peaceful means and with due respect to all entities that have achieved a certain degree of stability.

The European Union also stresses the importance of the United Nations arms embargo (Security Council resolutions 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992 and 1356 (2001) of 19 June 2001) on Somalia and calls upon all parties involved to fully respect this embargo. At the same time, the European Union recalls the statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/1), adopted on 11 January 2001 by the Council, which insists that all States should refrain from any military intervention in the internal situation in Somalia and that the territory of Somalia should not be used to undermine the stability in the subregion. The European Union believes that such interventions could jeopardize the sovereignty, political independence and unity of Somalia.

The European Union welcomes the creation of the National Committee for Reconciliation and Return of Property, as foreseen in article 30, paragraph 1 (a), of the Transitional Charter adopted in Arta. The European Union calls on the Transitional Government to create the conditions for the National Committee for Reconciliation and Return of Property to operate in an independent manner. The European Union encourages all parties in Somalia that have not participated in the Arta process to enter into dialogue, including through the National Committee, with the same genuine spirit of compromise and with a view to advancing and completing the reconciliation process among all Somalis.

The European Union also encourages the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its member States to enhance their efforts towards encouraging the process of reconciliation in Somalia, on the basis of the achievements of the Arta conference, so as to assist the Somalis to achieve peace and national reconciliation.

Finally, the European Union wishes to draw the attention of all parties involved to the need and the obligation for a guaranteed safety of all humanitarian agencies and their personnel operating in Somalia.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.